Trishul is a surface-to-air multi-role missile with a 9 km range having quick re-action time. A developmental flight trial of Trishul was conducted on May 11, 1998.

(b) Some countries such as USA, Canada, Japan and Australia have criticised India's Nuclear tests. Some countries have announced economic measures against India.

(c) Government have taken all steps necessary to explain the rationale underlying the decision to conduct the tests. Government has taken all possible steps to explain to various countries our unique record of restraint and our seriousness to actively engage in a constructive dialogue towards the objective of global nuclear disarmament. All efforts are being made to project our policies of restraint and responsible conduct to various countries.

Third Indo-US Defence Policy Group Meeting

2288. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the third Indo-US Defence Policy Group Meeting scheduled in November was postponed because of protocol problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what had been the position in earlier two meetings in regard to protocol of attending officials;

(d) the reasons for taking such a stand this time; and

(e) wheth ' the meeting has since been held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) During the visit of the US Secretary of Defence Mr. William Perry to India in January 1995, it was agreed that there would be periodic consultations between the US Department of Defence and the Indian Ministry of Defence. These Policy Group meetings could include representatives from other Government agencies and departments from both sides as necessary. No specific levels were formally identified. This in-built flexibility in the arrangement enables the two sides to nominate officials as deemed appropriate and necessary from time to time. No dates have been fixed for the third meeting of the Defence Policy Group.

Unfit Submarines

2289. DR. GOPALRAO VITHAL-RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of submarines unfit/ damaged or not working at present and the causes therefor;

(b) whether it is not affecting the security and what steps Government propose to take, including acquisition of atomic prowered submarines; and

(c) whether India has the missile which can be launched from the submarine; if not, by when we are going to develop it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There are no unfit/damaged or non-working submarines with Indian Navy.

Regular preventive maintenance of submarines is undertaken in a planned manner during their operating life. Further, acquisition/modernisation of submarines is undertaken on a continuous basis to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reduction.

It will not be appropriate to disclose further details in the interest of our national security.

Recruitment of Jawans

2290. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: